

Why Did It Take A War?

by Christina Prestia

Recently Americans of all ages have become very serious about wearing yellow ribbons and displaying the American flag to proclaim their patriotism. For some people these symbols only serve as fashion statements. Before you raise your flag or pin a ribbon to yourself, remind yourself what you are doing and why.

It is disgraceful and a sin that we need a war to help us recall that soldiers are still missing from previous wars. Why is it that we never wore ribbons for them? Why did those who did wear ribbons and wave flags stop?

There is an organization that has not forgotten. Camp Brandenburg POW-MIA is led by activists who are committed to educating the public about missing service men. The camp maintains a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week vigil and symbolic camp at the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans' Memorials.

The camp was established by Major John Parsels, who

is a returned prisoner of war. Each month the camp distributes thousands of pages of information. It raises money for its programs through the sale of t-shirts, bumper stickers, buttons and bracelets.

The bracelets that the camp sells are replicas of the "Montagard bracelets" the Vietnamese allies gave to American soldiers. The bracelets were a sign of fellowship. The bracelets are being sold in an effort to support the soldiers and to remind all that soldiers are being tortured and held captive. The bracelets are brass or steel and have the name of a missing soldier, or any soldier you wish, engraved on them.

To get on the camp's mailing list or to order a bracelet, write to: Camp Brandenburg POW/MIA—Capitol Region Chapter, P.O. Box 17356, Arlington, VA 22216.

Even if you do not support the war, please support the troops and keep them in your prayers; it's the least you can do for them.

Untitled Poem

by Diana Carpenter

I can see the love in their eyes. The way they touch.

I can feel the way they feel.

I envy them, I really do!

But, how long will it last?

How long will they last?

Until the final stages of the drama come to a close, when they stab each other with their cold words. When will the icy stares begin, and end? When everything given and taken is lost? When beautiful memories are forgotten in place of the ugly words? I pray that day never comes for them! They are like children. I will hold onto their innocence until it is lost, . . . when it is needed again.

Student Spotlight:

MARY MOLLOY

by Christina Prestia

To some she is just another face in the crowded hallways. To others Mary Molloy is a friend, a senior, captain of the varsity softball team and volleyball team, co-captain of the varsity basketball team, and a good student all in one.

Recently Mary was nominated Most Athletic Female. When asked how she felt about winning the senior poll, Mary responded, "I am happy and I feel honored; I didn't know so many seniors thought of me as being most athletic." She also explained that she felt Bridget Killen equally deserved to win the poll.

Mary encourages students to join a sport in high school, because, "It's something to go to school for besides an education. It makes school more enjoyable and helps you meet new people. It also keeps you in shape."

My next question was, "Who helped you get where you are today, and who has helped you get on the road to where you are headed?" Without hesitation, she said, "My parents helped me with their support and encouragement.

My friends helped me make it through school and life with a smile. Ms. Cassazone also helped me plan for college and has been real supportive during my four years here at Ford."

"What exactly are your plans for college?" I asked. "I want to go away to college. I'm thinking about a major in physical education or sports medicine," she replied. "What about the future, how do you see yourself in 10 years?" I inquired.

She thought for a second, then said, "Well, I'll be 27, so I hope to have a good career by then and to be starting a family."

I asked Mary if she wants her children to be involved in sports. She said, "I would like that, but I would never force them. Just because I love softball, it doesn't mean they have to."

Mary is glad she played sports, because she visited other schools and met new people, but most of all because it made her feel part of Bishop Ford.

What will Mary miss most about Ford? "That's easy," she says, "My friends."

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Bridget Killen of the girls' varsity basketball team, who scored her 1,000th point recently. Bridget is only the third athlete to accomplish this feat.

Big Sibling

by Bill Condon

New this year at Ford is the "Big Brother and Big Sister Program." The program is designed to help freshmen adjust to their first year of high school, and differs from the Peer Group program here at Ford in that it is on more of a one-to-one basis, while the Peer Group takes a "group" approach. The freshman can benefit from the senior's experience, and the senior may become a friend of the freshman. This program was the brainchild of Gary Perone and Mr. Paul Andersen, who felt that certain students might need a bit more help adjusting to high school life than the average student. Any junior interested in participating in this program may contact Mr. Anderson or Gary Perone for additional information.

Earth Day Revisited

by Anthony Martucci

Those of you who were at Ford last year probably remember when we celebrated Earth Day on April 26. Students were allowed to wear earth-colored clothes for a small fee, articles about the earth were posted around the school, and we even had a special assembly during which guest speakers talked to us on how to save the planet.

Well, now it's one year later and the situation has not changed. Still some people ignore what's going on around them. Forests that once grew big and tall are being torn down to make room for construction and new industries, industries that will probably be making hydrofluorocarbons. Hydrofluorocarbons (referred to as H.F.C.s) are man-made chemicals used in coolants that are destroying the ozone layer and contributing to the greenhouse effect which is heating up the planet. As you read this article, the ozone layer is getting worse and worse. If we got it and placed it on the ground, it would be as thin as a stick of gum and have holes in it the size of Antarctica.

But, not to worry, many organizations have been trying to help clear up this mess we have created. Most McDonald's have been changing their packaging of foods from polystyrene foam to recyclable containers, more and more people are recycling their soda cans and bottles, and there are new notebooks and paper products made of recycled paper popping up in stores.

As we have our two environmental awareness days at Ford this year, we should really try to become involved in helping to save the earth; it's not that hard to do according to statistics. If you shut the water every time you brush your teeth, you can save 10-15 gallons at a time. If every family were to recycle one-tenth of their newspapers, 25 million trees would be saved, and recycling aluminum cuts down on 95% of the air pollution.

Let's all welcome Earth Day this year with open arms and hope in years to come there's still an earth to hold on to.

Is Art Overshadowed At Ford?

by Christina Prestia

What is art? At Bishop Ford, art is discriminated against and discouraged. The faculty is hung up on their students' using the left-brain only. The left-brain deals with logic, analysis, language, and calculation. Unless we are in a fine arts class, or perhaps an English class, we are never asked to use the right-brain, which concerns emotions, creativity, sense of rhythm, imagination, dreaming, intuition, and sensitivity.

Most of the faculty want us to stifle our imaginations. They do not believe that art is an important subject. I've often heard, "Art? How will that look on your college application? Take a meaty course like math or science."

We must break the idea that art is secondary, and we must promote the importance of it. Art is taught from life experiences. Each day when I enter art class, I enter a different world, a world where students are relaxed, music is playing, and we are asked to create, using what is inside us. Mr. Turturro never says, "Take out your text books and copy pages 5-10." He says, "Use your imagination, don't think

about what you're drawing, and create."

The art rooms are cluttered with beautiful paintings done by students of the past and present. They must remain hidden away, however, because it has been said that there is no place to put them. That is a lie.

Our building is large and very dull. The classrooms consist of cinder-block walls, one bulletin board with an occasional Chalk Circle Player's poster on it, and some desks. The hallways have an excess of empty spaces above lockers and archways. The cafeteria, one of the largest rooms in the entire school, has only 5 paintings in it.

Recently, the art department spent \$1,300 on display boards, which were used only twice last year, first in the spring art show, and then to display the winners of the grammar school art competition. These boards are now used as cubicles in Ms. Busiello's classroom because of the administration's claim that there is lack of space.

Up until last year, art was displayed in the front lobby. This year there will be no art there. Faculty underestimates

us and fears that we will trip over Mr. Turturro's display boards, which have been called "eye sores." I think the real reason is that the boards will temporarily conceal the marble and mosaics in the lobby, the only art work thought to be precious at Bishop Ford.

The art teachers believe that art works done by students must be seen, because they are something that we have produced, and it will bolster a student's self-image to see his/her work being appreciated by other students and the faculty.

Art has helped me gain a new outlook on life, and it should be encouraged, whether it is a state's requirement or not.

Mr. Turturro feels that teaching is fulfilling and a learning experience, though he does not expect to turn Ford into an art school. He does, however, "Look forward to a time here at Ford when the community—faculty, administration, students and their families—will recognize and appreciate the wonderful creative spirit that has been lurking, for the most part, under piles of works stacked high in the art rooms."

MAKE THE BEST OF PROM NIGHT: DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

The articles on this page dealing with the war in the Persian Gulf were written long before that dreadful conflict came to an end.

It was decided to publish them here **after the fact** because they express the sincere sentiments of some of HIGHPOINT'S finest writers on an event that will reverberate for generations to come.

Inquiring Reporter:

What Is Date Rape?

by Theresa Eidt

What do you consider date rape?

When you're seeing a guy, and he pushes for sex, and you say no, and then he forces you to do it anyway.

Kristine Doody, 403

A friendly date that leads to something more sexual.

Laura Poloukovsty, 308

On the first date the guy rapes the girl.

Ben Zomer, 210

I consider date rape happens when a guy wants sex without the girl's consent, and he forces himself on her.

Mike Scondotto, 409

When you say no to sex but the person forces it.

Nancy Prestia, 309

It is so wrong! When you say no it should be no; no one should be able to control you.

Dina Alaimo, 401

Why should it be date rape if a girl's leading you on and makes you think that she wants to have sex, too?

Garry Petone, 407

It is a terrible thing, a serious problem, that should be addressed in more detail and not swept under the rug.

William Condon, 402

It is definitely wrong because you should not do anything you don't want to.

Betty Tataris, 112

I think that it is wrong, and the penalty for date rape should be more strict.

Kiya Huesca, 205

Unlike what some people think, it does actually exist.

Jessica Deiro, 402

I think it's messed up.

Kurt Schamann, 409

If the girl doesn't want to do it, but the guy insists, I consider that date rape.

Anita Rus, 310

It's wrong.

Joe Pariente, 309

Respect her, don't expect her.

Matthew Potter, 408

It is wrong, because guys think just because they are going out with a girl, it is all right to do it.

Denise Grullon, 106

Just because guys take you out, they think you owe them something; you don't. The girls think it is their fault of it happens, and they can't go to the police right away.

Alyssa Falcone, 204

It's bad; it's a criminal offense.

Frank Ciraulo, 103

If girls don't want to do it, they shouldn't have to.

Justin Tabick, 112

It is wrong if girls don't want to do it.

Bob Ryan, 209

Tell the police and have the guy arrested for doing it against a girl's will.

Phyllis Leono, 306

You shouldn't expect that from a girl.

Anthony Montenora, 406

It is stupid; if she doesn't want to, he shouldn't pressure her.

Pete Ribauda, 110

Sex against a person's will.

Glenn Martell, 307

It's wrong, because chauvanistic pigs who can't get a decent girl to form a relationship with have to rape them.

Mike Geraco, 304

Right Or Wrong?

by Karen Nikoloudakis

Today America is facing the fact that we are at war with Iraq. Some people might ask, "Why?" Others support President Bush's stand on becoming involved in this Middle East affair. Who is right, who is wrong?

The bottom line is that no country has the right to use aggression over a smaller nation for the sake of money (in this case, oil), which Saddam Hussein has done. The United States had an obligation to the people and government of Kuwait; like it or not, we did what we had to do.

We cannot support the troops without supporting the war in some way.

At the present time, 500,000 of our fellow Americans are in the gulf, and if we take such a negative stand, we will only be hurting them. For that fact, and that fact only, we must stand behind our men and women in the gulf and wish them the best, for they are what makes America the great nation it is.

Also, we should draw attention to the small but loud minority of American people who are so strongly opposed to the war and get so much media attention. Are these the people who speak for all United States citizens, as they say they do? We should all say NO! These are the people who cannot, do not, or will not understand what our true role is in the Persian Gulf, and they will eventually bring us to shame for it.

Sign up for the Talent Show sponsored by the National Honor Society. For information, see President Sandra Paul.

Is It Our Business?

by Diana Carpenter

Should the U.S. be the world's police? No one even thinks about this until the moment arrives and the black cloud is hanging over our heads. Since this war has started, I started asking myself a few questions. Should the U.S. be the world's police? Some say **yes** and get ready for those patriotic apple pies, while some say **no**.

Why are we at war? Is it for America's oil, or is it to preserve our freedom? We as America's future should be concerned. People our age are ready and willing to go out to fight and even to die for a country they believe in.

But I also know that we should be able to stop and think before we act. Why should we take this problem on our own? Why should it be America to take the first step?

NEXT ISSUE:

Special Dedication to the Class of 1991

WAR: What Is It Good For?

by Danielle Ramos

No one ever thought it would happen, but as the January 15th deadline drew closer, it became more apparent that war was probable. On January 16th at about 7 pm, the United States launched the first air raids against Iraq. As the war drags on, it becomes more apparent that it will be a long, bloody war.

Are our young American men and women fighting a war in Saudi Arabia really just to preserve freedom in Kuwait? Only the naive believe that. Kuwait is an **undemocratic** country where women have little-to-virtually-no rights at all, so freedom and equality are good excuses but not substantial reasons. Are we there for oil? That is more believable, although the real reasons why we are there are so complicated and unknown that maybe only George Bush knows.

No matter the reasons, there are no excuses. War is not justifiable.

It is incomprehensible that George Bush can sleep at night. Not only is he putting our troops in imminent danger, but he is killing hundreds in Iraq. Most of these victims do not support Saddam Hussein, many are helpless women and children, and all are innocent.

The popular thought is if Saddam Hussein is not stopped, he will take over the whole Persian Gulf area. If our troops were guarding the bordering regions, that would protect those countries. The decision to go to war was too hastily taken. Five months is not enough time to decide if massive numbers of people are to die.

How can anyone be for war when we see the families of the soldiers who are distraught and hysterical, knowing that they may never see their father, son, husband, or boyfriend again? Or, when they do see them, they may be maimed or paralyzed. Or they may be taken prisoners of war, beaten and tortured and used as human shields.

All you out there who support this war, tell me how you could look into the eyes of the person you love most in this world and imagine him/her shot, maimed, tortured, beaten, or even dead in a body bag and support this war?

We must support our troops who live in constant danger. But we must also protest this war and get our troops home safe and as soon as possible. God willing, this war will end soon.

Is It A Victory?

by Vanessa Laird

As I sit at my kitchen table, I glance at the newspaper and think to myself, "I don't need any more news about the war." This war in the Persian Gulf has been really annoying me lately.

As of today, February 11, 1991, it has been 26 days of fighting over oil. Families are suffering over the loss of their brave soldiers; our country is suffering great economic loss. But the war continues.

The thing that really bothers me is President Bush's brief appearances (interrupting all shows) on television. Every now and then he comes on television to say that we are right on schedule with operation Desert Storm, we will not lose, this will not be another Vietnam, and basically, **we are winning the war**.

But **think**. Are we really winning the war? Sure, this is what we are told. But, weren't we told the same during the Vietnam War?

We are losing our soldiers. This may seem obvious, since we are at war, but a human's life is major to me. We are fighting for oil. Is it necessary to take a man's life for oil? How can we say we are winning when we have lost so many lives?

I feel this war is ridiculous. Saddam's spilling oil in the water supports my criticism. There we are, fighting over oil, and he wastes it, only to endanger the lives of birds and all the other creatures who need the water to survive. . . . as if human lives aren't enough.

There is so much suffering in this country because of the war. Yet, we're winning. It seems to me that we're losing much more than we're gaining. I have a cousin, a god-brother, and some friends in the war. All I know is, if we do win in the end, but I lose them, I'll feel no pride in this country.

HIGHPOINT

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